

We claim:

1. A process for preparing a from 5 to 60% by weight aqueous alkaline solution of a reduced indigoid dye, which comprises reducing said indigoid dye electrochemically in the presence of a mediator.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mediator is an iron(II/III) complex salt.
3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein, based on a mediator which transfers one electron per molecule, from 0.003 to 0.08 mol of mediator is used per mole of dye.
4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the dye to be reduced is not precharged all at once, but is added a little at a time.
5. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the alkali used is a mixture of at least two alkali metal hydroxides wherein none of the alkali metal hydroxides accounts for more than 70 mol%.
6. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein from 1.2 to 2 mol of alkali are used per mole of dye.
7. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein said reducing is effected at from 10 to 80°C.
8. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 for preparing a from 15 to 45% strength by weight leuco indigo solution.

TO5001 326000